

CLAIMS

1. A touch probe (10,50) comprising:
a probe body (12,52) housing first locating
5 elements (23,58);
a stylus holder (16,54) having second locating
elements (24,57) which co-operate with the first
locating elements to locate the stylus holder within
the probe body; and
10 a bias (36,68,86) to urge the first and second
locating elements into contact, characterised in that;
an element (35,50,76,90) is provided to damp
motion between the probe body and the stylus holder.
- 15 2. A touch probe according to claim 1 wherein the
element (35,50,76,90) slows a relative movement between
the first and second locating elements.
3. A touch probe according to claim 2 wherein the
20 element (35,50,76,90) slows the relative movement by
resisting the urging of the bias.
4. A touch probe according to any preceding claim
wherein the element (35,50,76,90) is slidably mounted
25 with respect to one of the probe head and stylus
holder.
5. A touch probe according to claim 4 wherein the
element (35,76) is slidably mounted with respect to
30 both the probe head and stylus holder.
6. A touch probe according to claim 4 wherein the
element (90) is rotatably mounted with respect to one
of the probe head and stylus holder.

7. A touch probe according to claim 1 wherein the element (50) absorbs energy produced by a relative movement between the probe body and stylus holder.

5 8. A touch probe according to claim 7 wherein the element is lossy.

9. A touch probe according to claim 8 wherein the element includes at least two materials and at least
10 one of which is lossy.

10. A touch probe according to claim 9 wherein a lossy material is carbon powder.

15 11. A touch probe according to claim 10 wherein, between 10 and 120 pph of carbon powder is used.

12. A touch probe according to any preceding claim wherein, the first locating elements each comprise a
20 pair of balls (23) which form a v-shaped seat and the second locating elements each comprise a roller (24) which supports the stylus holder (16) on the v-shaped seat.

25 13. A touch probe according to any of claims 1 to 11 wherein, the first locating elements each comprise a ball (58) and the second locating elements each comprise a v shaped groove (57) which partially houses a ball and is supported thereon.